

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 16 are amended. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Tucker at the personal interview held June 28, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Claim Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,469 to Silverstein. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 10 and 16, Silverstein fails to disclose the steps of (or the means for) (1) "halftoning an original contone image, resulting in a halftone image with a plurality of halftone portions, each halftone portion comprising a portion of the image halftoned by a halftone, at least two halftone portions comprising portions of the image halftoned by different halftones;" and (2) "adjusting boundary regions located between halftone portions of the halftone image to minimize a brightness deviation between the boundary regions and the original contone image."

Silverstein discloses a method for improving halftone image sharpness. The method includes processing contone image 100 to produce halftone image 130. Contone image 100 is scanned and adjacent pixels are compared in pairs. For each pixel pair, a threshold and a gradient across the pixels is determined. If the difference between the luminescences of the two pixels exceeds the threshold, then the corresponding pixel pair in the halftone image 130 is checked. If the sign of the gradient between the corresponding pixels of the halftone image 130 is opposite to the sign of the gradient of the contone image 130 pixels, then the halftone

pixels are switched, otherwise, the halftone image is not changed (col. 3, lines 1-11). This is described in greater detail in relation to Fig. 7.

Silverstein fails to disclose or anticipate features (1) or (2) because Silverstein does not disclose more than one halftone portion. As agreed at the personal interview, the claims are patentable over Silverstein. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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